SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHICAGO LEDGER.

THE LITTLE LEDGER

KNOWLEDGE, ROMANCE, AMUSEMENTS, ETC. FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

USEFUL

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CLYDE IN COREA;
OR,
Bearding the Czar.

By WILLIAM PERRY BROWN.

CHAPTER I.

FUGITIVES.

"There, Min Yung, there! Hold her about so."

A long, low rakish craft—half barge and half canoe—with a junk-like mainsail and an immense three-cornered sheet, that seemed to be a combination of foresail and jib, was flying down the long harbor of Chemulpo, the seaport of Seoul, the capital of Corea.

Behind her, at a distance of some 600 yards, was a larger boat, somewhat similarly rigged, and painted in broad stripes of orange and black. In this second boat were a dozen or more men in baggy Corean uniforms, besides a number of boatmen, who were pulling at long oars to assist the sails.

Projecting from the bow of the second boat was a long pole, at the end of which was a cigar-shaped object about two feet or so long. The projection was not a bowsprit, for the Coreans do not, as a rule, use them. It was fully thirty feet long and very slim. The cigar-like appendage pointed directly at the fugitive boat's head.

In the latter were but two persons, both of them mere lads. One stood erect on the deck of the boat with a short, thick magazine rifle in his hand, closely watching the movements of their pursuers. He was stout, ruddy-featured and comely, and seemed to view the situation with an air of easy indifference. Yet he was very alert and watchful in reality.

Min Yung, the lad addressed, was in a fever of nervous agitation. His yellow hand shook as he fingered the dragon head into which the end of the tiller was shaped. His black hair, neatly parted in the middle, hung down his back in a long braid that was tied with a bright ribbon, like an American school girl's. His clothing was a mere shapeless wad of garments, from which his arms and feet projected, and he was further encumbered by a hat of white straw with an immense brim, which appeared to be about two sizes too small. It was held on by a strap that passed under the base of the queue, after the manner of western women.

"They are gaining on us, Min Yung," said Clyde Duboff, taking a deliberate squint along the sights of his rifle. "And we are at least five miles from the yacht."

"Celebrate me—letter you go," said Min Yung, succinctly, yet with the vivid emphasis inspired by fear.

"Well, we ain't going to let them catch us if we can help it. I am more afraid of that new fangled torpedo hanging at their bow than of all those soldiers your respected master has sent after you."

"Torpedo? What him do?"

"When they find they cannot overhaul us they can fire it off. If it explodes within twenty yards of our sampan—it's good-bye Johnnie. They will blow us out of the water. I did not think you Coreans were so blood-thirsty, Min Yung."

"Shon Was, be no clare. So kill Min Yung, be no clare. No get Min Yung back, be no clare, so kill Melikin boy, too."

"I see. If Shon, your master, cannot recapture you, rather than let you get clear away he will, if possible, destroy us both. But—there comes a good puff. This breeze is freshening and hashing more astern. It may help us."

The harbor of Chemulpo is several miles long, and land-locked by reason of sundry islands scattered across its mouth. The tide, which rises to an immense height, forms a current of ebb and flow which, at certain localities, runs with extraordinary swiftness.

In making their escape Clyde had taken this into consideration. Yet a certain delay, owing to baffling breezes, together with the slowness of their boat, had brought the hour of slack water perilously near. Should the incoming flood catch them inside of one of the numerous channels leading seaward they would surely be stopped, and capture would probably follow. Their sluggish sampan could never make head against the strong current that would soon set in, even with a favoring breeze.

Could they, however, succeed in gaining the outer bar in time, the incoming tide would assist instead of hindering them, as it caused a powerful current to sweep down the coast in the very direction the fugitives wished to go.

The freshening of the breeze seemed to aid the retreating boat. For a time it drew away from the other. Then the Coreans put out more oars and thus neutralized the effect of the breeze. Clyde bent down and put his hand in the water. As far as he could judge the tide was beginning to turn. Yet the channels between the islands stretched devlously for several miles ahead on either side. It was doubtful if they would be able to get through.

The sun shone nearly in their faces as it was sinking toward the bosom of the Yellow Sea. Behind them lay the long harbor with Chemulpo clustered about its edge, and with great hills rising behind that swelled into mountains further inland toward Seoul. It was summer time and ashore the mercury would doubtless have climbed very high, but on the water the moist breeze mollowed the heat, so that under the shadow of the sails one could be comfortable.

To add to Clyde's perplexity and increase the terror of Min Yung, another boat, which had shot out from a rocky promontory to the right, joined in the chase, evidently responding to certain signals from their pursuer. This new-comer was a fishing craft with a high bow and stern, and two shutter-like brown sails that hung to the masts as if on pivots, looking like slatted window-blinds of unusual size.

Min Yung informed Clyde that this was one of his master's fishing craft, and that there was no chance now for them to get away, whatever. In his fear he evinced a desire to relinquish the tiller and throw himself, in an agony of apprehension, upon the bottom of the boat.

"Hold her up; don't let go!" cried Clyde, trimming the sails so as to sheer more to the left. "Giving up ain't going to help us. Think of that torpedo and of the paddles Sign Wan has ready for you in his court-

"Hurrah! Look, Min Yung! Hurrah!"

suing vessels drew nearer rapidly, and by closing the mouth of the bite, seemed to effectually cut off all egress. The boat behind was drawing perilously near, while the fishing craft appeared to be placing itself so as to cut off all escape, even should they be able to weather the point, a task growing momentarily more doubtful.

"There is but one way to help this boat out of this scrape," said Clyde again picking up the rifle. "Lucky I am a good shot. And yet I hate to attempt such a trick. Sooner one may get killed."

"We get kill," communted Min Yung, looking longingly toward shore. "Min Yung jump out, Melikin boy jump out. Hide in bush."

"It is an island. They will be sure to find us. No, you hold the boat steady. I am going to shoot—bang!"

Clyde stretched himself along a thwart and rested the rifle on the gunwale. But the motion of the boat interfered with his aim.

"This won't do," he muttered. "I must try it off hand. They are so near now I ought to hit that thing without much trouble."

The pursuing craft was now not more than 200 yards in the rear. The dark oval of the torpedo pointed ominously at the fugitives, as if assuring them of the destruction it threatened.

"Lookee!" cried Min Yung gripping the tiller hard. "Shon Was getting ready."

"Hush up!" growled Clyde fretfully. "I've got eyes as well as you, I guess. The rascals are going to discharge that torpedo. They think they are near enough to blow us out of the water without fail. Well, they are near enough for—me—too."

As he lingered over the last words he was raising the rifle and bracing himself against the swaying of the deck. The people on the other boat, thinking that he doubtless intended to shoot one of them, dodged about and crouched behind the low bulwarks. One baggy figure approached a sort of lateyard communicating with the torpedo. He bent down and sighted along the pole. Clyde saw the long protuberance swing slowly into line with their own boat.

The men in the fishing craft set up a loud shout and a series of short, sharp exclamations came from their direction. Min Yung uttered a cry of fear. But on the boat behind all was silent. Only the squatting figure in the bow was visible. Even the helmsman had disappeared before the American boy and his gun, that was now settling into final aim.

"Here she goes," muttted Clyde as he pulled the trigger.

The report of the rifle rang out loudly, but its echoes were swiftly followed by a deeper roar, that seemed to jar the very depths of the sea. A dash of white water hid the pursuing boat as Clyde waved his cap and shouted:

"Hurrah! Look, Min Yung! Hurrah!"

CHAPTER II.

HARD PRESSED. THE DAINTLESS.

As the smoke cleared away Min Yung did look, and his enthusiasm also rose, and he jabbered away in a comical intermixture of his native dialect, with fiery abridgments of the king's English.

Where the pursuing craft had been was now a number of men in wadded garments struggling in the water. The forward part of the boat had been shivered to fragments, upon which the after part was settling slowly. Whether any one was killed or wounded was not at once apparent. But the waves were alive with floating figures, some of whom struck out for the near-by shore, while others were clinging to fragments of the wreck.

The men in the fishing boat uttered cries of rage and bent to their oars in a final effort to intercept the author of so much mischief.

"Good gun," said Clyde, patting the breech affectionately. "These new fangled smokeless powder rifles may be all right for long distances, but the old Winchester is good enough for me."

They hauled more upon the wind now, relieved from all danger behind. But the incoming current was against them, while it rather aided the fishermen. The two crafts drew nearer to each other. Clyde saw that if the point was to be passed a collision was almost inevitable.

The Coreans evidently possessed no fire arms, but several held ugly-looking knives and fish spears, and from the way they angrily chattered among themselves and pointed to Min Yung, it was apparent that they were aware what was up, and who their master's boat had been chasing.

"Now, Min Yung," said Clyde, as not more than 100 yards separated the two craft, "brace up! They have no fire arms. I will fire a few shots over their heads to let them know what we can do, if they force us. You steer just as close to the point as you think we can go without grounding. We will get away yet."

Since the destruction of his master's boat Min Yung had plucked up a wonderful spirit. He laughed, cackled and gestured in a way to indicate his scorn of the half-clad fishermen. Clyde's rifle he would have fallen down and worshiped had there been time. As for Clyde himself, Min Yung did not now doubt but that the white "devil" was more than a match for a fleet of fishing sampans.

But as the two boats drew very near he quailed somewhat at sight of his countrymen's angry faces, as he remembered the awful predicament from which the white man rescued him that morning, and thought of the punishment awaiting him at home if he was taken back there.

Clyde fired several volleys over the other boat, reloading his magazine from his cartridge-belt. But as he tried to hit no one the Coreans appeared to think he was unable to do any more execution. They shouted derisively and cast two or three shots at the fugitives. One struck their boat, piercing the bamboo gunwales and hanging there, its handle trailing in the water.

"Don't let her ground, Min Yung," cried the youth. "I see several people from the other boat running for the point."

Min Yung saw it, too, and again his fears grew uppermost. Those of the wrecked boat who had first gained the shore of the island, were hastening along the beach to intercept the fugitives at the shallow bar trending outward from the point. The fishermen redoubled their efforts at their oars and trimmed their sails anew.

It began to look as if the fugitive craft would be hemmed in between the two parties just at the place where shoal room was most needed—in the shallow water at each of the point. If this could be passed the dividing current would aid their further efforts as much as it now hindered them. Clyde saw that they might not weather the critical situation that again threatened them.

Throwing down his rifle he sprang to the oars, while Min Yung trimmed the clumsy sails as flat as the broad boom would allow of. But a good deal of lee way was made and some arrows from the party on shore pierced the sails.

As the point was approached the fishing boat bore down across their path despite all their efforts. Clyde pulled at his oars until his face grew red. Suddenly the boat ran aground. Min Yung, in his alarm at sight of the fisherman, had trenched too close upon the shore. Loud shouts proclaimed that their pursuers were aware of their predicament.

Shon Wan himself, followed by several of the Corean soldiers, plunged into the water and waded toward the fugitives. But the waded garments, saturated with salt water, rendered their progress so slow that they had some distance to go. At sight of Shon Wan's inflamed visage and vivid gestures of encouragement to his followers Min Yung fell through fear into desperation. He left the tiller and seizing one of the oars sided Clyde in attempting to push the craft free from the shoal on which it had grounded itself.

But the effort was ineffectual. Seeing that matters were coming to a climax Clyde seized his rifle again and taking careful aim, sent a couple of balls through the fastenings and leather hinges of the fishing boat's rudder. The steersman loosed the tiller and the shattered helm hung loosely from the boat, veering to wind and current, swung round off her course.

Had they not been hard aground, the fugitives might have passed through in safety. But the Corean fishermen thrust over their poles and oars and came to the rescue than ever. Shon Wan and his party were very near. Both Clyde and Min Yung now ran no little risk from flying arrows. But the Coreans possessed fire arms the two boys would have been shot down without mercy.

Clyde still hesitated to take their lives, which his skill as a marksman would have rendered easily possible. But as the two parties advanced close, their yellow, malignant faces aglow with hostile passions, he felt that something of that sort must be done or they would be boarded and perhaps slaughtered without mercy.

Shon Wan, hardly thirty yards away, seized a spear from his nearest followers and cast it at Min Yung; who was still trying to push off the boat. Clyde saw the treacherous weapon pierce the boy's bulky gown, then Min Yung staggered back and sank down uttering a choking cry.

"I can't stand that," muttered Clyde, taking a swift aim as the triumphant shouts of the Coreans announced the fall of the boy.

Bang! Shon Wan's uplifted arm fell useless to his side. But his yell of pain was interrupted by a tremendous explosion beyond the point and the hurtle of a cannon ball sounded over their head.

Clyde looked back, and just beyond the point a large steam yacht was forging into view, scarcely a quarter of a mile off. As she rounded to in the deep water beyond the point, a boat was lowered, into which poured a dozen native sailors, who rowed swiftly toward the now dismayed Coreans and their hard-pressed fugitives.

The fishermen, having brought their boat alongside by this time, were sternly ordered back by Clyde, who presented his rifle. The sight of the ensign and the sight of the deadly muzzle close to their heads operated as a sudden check. But one burly flat-nosed fellow levelled a blow with a boat pole at Min Yung, who dodged. The man was immediately pushed overboard by Clyde by means of his Winchester; the Corean falling with a yell into the water, under the idea that he was going to have a hole blown through his body.

Shon Wan's party, seeing this struggle rushed forward, but one shot fired before the sailors could arrive. The water being shallow a number climbed on board the sampan undeterred by the repulse of the first assailant.

Min Yung was seized and whirled overboard by two strong men, who waded off with the lad; and he kicking, screaming, struggling and resisting. Others seizing Clyde Duboff, bearing the youth backward by weight of numbers. He belabored them with his arms, and finally reaching himself through a final effort, sprang to his feet on the forward half-deck and shot another one in the leg. The rest of the party and the others and he retreated to the mast, still struggling desperately.

A mist came before his eyes, his blood seemed to be turning into a surging flame in the stress of his exertion. He heard Min Yung utter a shrill cry, and then a blow from a club sent a crashing noise through his brain. Fires danced in his eyes as he struck the deck insensible.

"I wonder if they will get here too late?" was his last fleeting glimmer of thought. Then he failed to think at all for a time.

CHAPTER III.

CLYDE'S FATHER. MIN YUNG'S ESCAPE.

When Clyde recovered his senses Min Yung was fanning him with an immense fan made of flamingo feathers with a long bamboo handle. The Corean boy was about six feet away, and was working his improvised punkah in a slow and stately manner, accompanying the motion by saying in a low nasal monotone some kind of native slumber song.

"I don't seem to be dead after all," muttered Clyde, looking around in a perplexed manner.

"Hiccum head. Welly bad blow," commented Min Yung composedly. "Been dead one, fourteen-ax hour. Then my boy's arithmetical nomenclature was not modified upon our system of notation. "Cap'n Hammond, he savee doctor. Welly good. Min Yung brush 'em—no talkee—no talkee."

Nor would he say more in reply to Clyde's questions, except to wag his head and deal disapprovingly, as he continued his manipulations of the punkah unremittingly. The inference was that he was in the main cabin of the "Tar-ra-ra," his uncle's yacht. From the muffled throbbing sound beneath and a slow rolling motion the whole vessel, he became aware that they were under way. Through the stern windows on the light sea-fog which hung over it was night.

"Had me my watch, Min Yung," he requested, but the young Corean only shook his head. "Well, you can tell me the time. I can't see the clock at this distance."

But Min Yung continued to wag his head while using the punkah unceasingly. He had been told to keep Clyde quiet and gently meant to obey orders in his own way.

"Young it all?" ejaculated the lad. "There is nothing the matter with me except that crack on the head. It must have been a pretty hard one, for I don't remember anything after I got it, except that the rascals had you, Min Yung. I think, considering how I escaped over your head, I'll take your hands, you are very obliging, Min Yung."

"No, Min Yung, no, Min Yung. Cap'n Hammond, he do—he say keep quiet. Mus'n talkee. Keep quiet."

Neither reproaches nor persuasion availed. Hammond, he say keep quiet. The last weight of Clyde's reproaches keenly. But his slanting eyes lightened up as a step was heard descending the companion. The youngster-deck, and a short, pink-faced, jolly-looking middle-aged man entered the cabin.

"Well, sophew; well, sir!" said the gentleman in a half severe, half affectionate tone. "How are we getting on? Quite pretty sore, I guess."

"Sore, but nothing serious, Uncle," returned Clyde. "I wish you would box Min Yung's ears. He won't allow me to talk, and says he will have that exasperating fan, roll his eyes and look miserable."

"I told him you must be kept quiet. He only obeyed orders. Hey! if you feel strong enough you may tell me what this fracas means, and who Min Yung is. Had we been ten minutes later those pirates would have had you both by the heels. What have you been doing to get those Coreans after you in such shape? What did you bear concerning your father?"

Clyde, having taken a drink of lemonade handed him by Min Yung, felt of his bandaged head, then said sadly:

"I went to our minister at Seoul and told my tale. He sent me to the Russian legations with a note of introduction. There I met a courier just in from Vladivestock. This man, after I explained that I was expecting news of Rurik Duboff, an Americanized Russian traveler and scientist, now traveling in Siberia in the interest of the Smithsonian Institute, at first said he knew nothing. Had heard nothing; then he stopped and became suspicious and uncommunicative.

"The minister privately told me that a little hard money might render Mr. Courier more communicative. So, later on, I went to a dirty hole where he was stopping, and slipped a $5 gold piece into his hand. When he saw the metal was yellow he blessed me in the name of several Russian-Greek saints; then I asked a certain Dr. Dubloff, so he had heard, had been reported to the police at Yakoutsk as a former nihilist, several years back.

"Of course I was paralyzed. But he cheered me up a little by saying further, that because my father was arrested he had suddenly left for the northern wilderness of the Lena with an exploring party."

"Now, what notion took him off there?" said Captain Hammond, half to himself, as if in a piece with his former recklessness. Clyde, your respected father may be a great scientist and all that, but as an American citizen, with a wife and family in Chicago, he is guilty of great imprudence in going to Russia at all. If the Czar's officials conclude that he means mischief, his adoptive citizenship in the United States won't help him much. It appears to me you have been very lucky that your father once had to leave Russia for what they call political crimes."

"I only got a slight wound in a peaceful way to give his countrymen liberty is much of a crime," said Clyde, indignantly, "as they call arms," said Clyde, indignantly, "as they call them. Father gave them to me when he came to America, married your sister, Uncle, and has renounced all his rights as a Russian by being naturalized at home. I don't consider Russia has any claim on him at all."

"According to dates she has much. But the Czar does not recognize our ideas. They have found out in some way that Dr. Rurik Duboff is a renegade, and who turned up three years ago was expelled from Moscow for being connected with a certain riot at the Moscow University. That is why your courier's news means, I know. Doubtless he picked it up in a fragmentary way, yet it must be substantially true. Have the cablegram confirms it—see?"

Captain Hammond handed his nephew a type-written paper, headed with the principal monogram of the Hong Kong & Nagasaki Cable Company, that read as follows:

"Chicago, United States—Captain Edward Hammond, steam yacht Ta-ra-ra, Hong Kong. We forwarded. Rurik Duboff connected to secret police, St. Petersburg. Last heard from at Irkoutsk. Was then going to Yakoutsk, Siberia. Warn him if possible. Have advised state department at Washington. We are well, have you? Love to yourself and Clyde.

"Mary Duboff."

May 16, 189—

"Dear mother, muttered Clyde. "How she will worry. Where did you get this, Uncle?"

"I was cruising off Yashan, waiting for your return a little. I did not look for you back under a week. So I intercepted the mail steamer from Nagasaki, and as her luck would have it, they had sent a copy of the telegram, on a venture, knowing that I was somewhere along the coast. I thought you ought to hear this news at once, so instead of waiting for you at the place agreed on I ascended up the river. Why, knowing you would be more than apt to come by way of Chemulpo?"

"Well, you just hit it, as it happened. After I had learned all I could about father, and that nothing could then be done in Seoul, I set out to Chemulpo to bring you down the bay, and through the islands to where I knew you must be waiting. An American steamer left with me, and as we had trouble getting a man with a proper boat. This was in Chemulpo. The missionary over the bay and I stayed one night at a wretched hole of an inn. In the morning two of the King's officers came there to see Min Yung.

"It appears his father was a rebel in the Kim-o-kium affair, several years back. He had been executed, but they have since found law in Corea which includes the families of condemned rebels in their brutal sentences. Min Yung's older brother had been killed, and his mother was dead. Now that the boy was getting of large they concluded it was time to make way with him. So Shon Wan, his master, whom he worked for, bribed one of the police. They were on the way to have the boy killed when I saw them at the inn."

"Why, they're perfectly horrible, Clyde. But how did the lad get away?"

"I helped him off."

"You!" Uncle!"

Captain Hammond looked astonished. "So, that was the reason you had such a tussle when we came to the rescue?"

"Just so. They have a curious way of executing the relatives of rebels in Corea. The houses are built of stone, and floored with brick. They have flues underneath instead of stoves or fireplaces. With a good fire they can turn a tight room into an oven. A small room becomes a regular furnace. They take the victim inside, make him drink poison, upset a large jar of water on the hot floor, then shut the poor wretch in. If he doesn't die of the poison, the hot air and steam soon complete the work. They wear wooden shoes so that the floor will not burn the executioner's feet."

"Bless my soul! Did I ever before hear of such utter barbarity! I hope, nephew, that you frustrated their design. It is like Coreu though."

"Of course, or Min Yung would not be here. The officers, for some reason, went off and left Min Yung in charge of his master. I think the fire needed more fuel or something. It was down at the shore, quite half a mile from town at a butcher's house, where the deed was to be done. I was along out of sympathy for Min Yung. He stood there, looking very pitiful with his arms pinned behind between bamboo splits. As I came near he spoke to me. He thought from my look, I guess, that I was sorry for him, Min Yung?"

The Corean lad, who was listening and uttering confirmatory grunts, nodded vigorously.

"He said: 'Melikin boy help?' Then he looked at a single sampan drawn up on the beach. It was the only boat there. I came over me all at once. There was no one close by except Shon Wan. I had my rifle. So I whacked him one over the head and then he was looking another way, and shouted to Min Yung to follow me, for his legs were free.

"Then I made for the boat. I heard shouts and Shon Wan coming back, as we left. Officials approaching on a dead run. Shon Wan also rose up, fairly shrieking with rage at the boy, for I had biffed him a good one—you bet."

(To be continued next week.)

Sagacity of a Horse.

The Chicago police succeeded lately in capturing a wagon-load of stolen goods with much trouble. The prisoners were all captured. The police were at a loss to know what to do, as there was no clew by which they could trace the fugitives. Sudden one of the detectives had a happy idea. He determined to harness the horse which had been captured with the wagon, start it in the direction it had come, the thieves had been driving, and then leave it to its own devices.

No sooner was this idea conceived than it was executed. The horse was harnessed, and two detectives mounted the cart. The animal started at a decent pace, first going north, then turning west, it finally halted in front of a barn in a narrow alley leading from Twenty-ninth street. On opening the barn the police discovered about $400 worth of stolen goods, including two horses and several wagons. The detectives had a happy time unloading the thieves. On entering the barn the horse was secured, and soon found themselves in the nearest police cell.

Before the Storm Broke.

"That remains to be seen," said Dick absent-mindedly.

"What remains?" Mrs. Hicks asked eying him. But before he could reply she caught sight of a wet-dog duff of green paint on the seat of his pantsies.

A Superior Attraction.

First small boy—Come over and play in this mud-puddle.

Second small boy—Nope; you come over and play in this one.

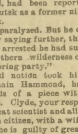
First small boy—I won't. The water's dirtier in this puddle than it is in yours.

But They Won't Confess It.

Almost every woman is trying something for her complexion.

I Can Eat and Sleep

Comrade C. M. Miller of Orcutt Post 79, a resident of Cooper, Mich., writes: "I had a stroke of paralysis in my right side, affecting my body very much. My right arm and leg. I could not eat or talk. I became



C. M. Miller

Discouraged.

My wife coaxed me to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. The first dose did me good. I slept soundly that night. As I continued to take the remedy the numbness left me and shortly I regained my speech. My appetite increased. After using five bottles I could eat as well as ever." C. M. MILLER, Cooper, Mich., Sec. Ivy Leaf Lodge.

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MOUSIE'S ADVENTURE.

BY MARY WILSON.

One day a bright-eyed mousie
Spied a tempting bit of cheese;
The smell was so delicious,
It made the mousie sneeze.

Right there it was before him,
He took one little bite;
"Snap, snap!" and, ah, the pity!
The mousie was fastened tight.

"And so I've caught you, have I?
Come here, my pussy cat,
Take him out and eat him,
He's young and sleek and fat."

Then the kitten played with him,
As kittens do, you know;
A hen stood near and watched her,
As she let the mousie go.

"Chuck!" Lo! the hen had caught him
Right before Miss Pussy's eyes.
The mousie squeaked, the hen ran off,
The cat looked on, surprised.

Old Father Red Comb noticed
Mrs. Chickie and her prey,
And left the flower garden
To hurry out that way.

The other chickens followed,
But Cackle ran before;
She couldn't well divide her feast,
Unless there had been more.

Close behind came Red Comb,
"Chuck, chuck, give me some, pray;"
"Quack" said greedy Cackle,
And the mousie got away.

HOW THE MORTGAGES COME.

"This is only squaw winter," said the Chickadee, as he stuffed one of his dainty feet into his downy bosom to warm it, "it'll soon pass away and we'll have a spell of real nice weather yet before winter sets in."

"I hope so."

"Nothing surer. I hear the dogs killed nine sheep last night? Too bad. I tell you what you might do—if it isn't too much trouble. You might tear up a bunch of fallow on the end of the barn. It will come handy to peck at when the wood is all frozen solid."

I thanked the Chickadee for the suggestion and assured him that I would do it in the morning.

"You won't lose anything by it," said the Chickadee, as he clasped feet and tucked the cold one under his vest, "Chickadees bring luck, and I never knew of a colony of swallows in a mean man's barn.

"I was talking last night to Bradley's farm. They have just put a mortgage on it and it hurts worse than a home-made mustard plaster on a school boy. Bradley's farm feels terribly down in the mouth."

"How did it happen?"

"Oh, the old way. It wasn't Bradley's fault, nor it wasn't the farm's fault; they both did their level best."

"Was it too much style, top buggies, pianos, etc?"

"No, it wasn't that. I like to see the boys drive a nice rig and the girls have a piano if they want it—they deserve it. A nice buggy and a good piano are as necessary to make life bearable on a farm as a bleder or a sulky plough. That isn't what caused it. The farm is getting old, it has been worked too hard, it has been made to give, give and got nothing back. For instance, old man Bradley has raised nine of a family on that old farm and started them all in life. A hundred acre Ontario farm ought to be numbered with the nine wonders of the world. It not only keeps its own folks, but helps to keep the rest of the Dominion. When the girls got married they got an outfit, some cows and sheep, and, perhaps a wad of money. All this came out of the farm. When the boys married three of them went off to Manitoba and the northwest. The old farm furnished them with carloads of cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, seed, implements, furniture and money to start with. Consequence was the old farm had to stand double crops and manurement two in a season, to make up for it. One of the boys bought fifty acres next door and the old farm had to wheel up to make the first payment. The old farm was getting kind of weak and sulky about this time. Then the youngest boy got it into his head that he would be a doctor—nothing would do but he must be a doctor. Then it was that the iron entered into the old farm's soul. They put a mortgage on it to pay the young cub's expenses to college. It took $2,000 to make a jack rabbit doctor out of him, and now they will have to put another mortgage on the old farm in order to buy him a practice and furnish him with good clothes and the tools of his trade. That's pretty hard on the old farm, especially when it has been asking for the past twenty years to have the big meadow underdrained, and the barn is shouting for a new roof and the fences are clean crazy. Then there is the fifty acre farm—the boy can't pay for his farm and wants to sell out and turn preacher—another $1,000. That will finish the old farm.

"As the old farm said to me last night, 'Here I be in my old age raisin' nothing but interest, thistles, ragwood and squirts. I'm pretty near done for.'"

"Did you ask the farm what it thought was the primary cause of the trouble?"

"Yes; farm said it was edjucation. Too many high schools an' collegiate institute, an' colleges and universities. Old farm said that this here country was getting educated to death. The young folks could draw a map of Siam with their eyes shut, but they couldn't go under the barn and feed the brindle heifer in the dark; they are fitted to keep books for a grocery store, but I'm jiggered if they can tell what it cost to raise the old man's crop of potatoes. Some av 'em can drive over the Lasse bridge like Sam Hill, but they can't drive the hayrake, oh no. Nevertheless we haven't got enough doctors of the right kind. We want doctors who will medicine the old worn-out farms, remove skin diseases in the shape of weeds, stiffen up the muscles with good feuces, tone up its stomach with lots of barnyard stuff, and—say get yer gun?"

"Why?"

"There's Bledsoe's cat just crawled into the wood pile—see her? She is laying for my old woman. The old lady has been pooh-by lately and she was mopping around the yard yesterday trying to find a certain spotted bug, which she says is good for liver complaint when this cat just missed her by a hair and now she's got——"

Bang!

"——palpitation of the heart along with the liver complaint, but that will cure both. Chickadee, ta-ta.—The Khan.

A Wife-Choosing Ceremony.

At the far end of Naples lies the little church of Santa Maria Annunziata, which, once a year, on the day of Our Lady, wakes up into a brief life and excitement. In a silent row before the altar kneel twenty girls, all in black garments, with folded hands and eyes fixed on the picture of the Madonna before them. These are orphans from the neighboring foundling asylum, and once a year those who have reached the age of 18 are brought here to the church, and may be chosen in marriage by any honest man who can prove the order, and whose character is good. At the door leading to the sacristy leans a gray-haired priest, the head of the asylum, and to the one young man makes his way from the back of the church and hands him a packet of papers. These the priest reads aloud, and being satisfied, he gives them back and leads the candidate some three or four steps. Their eyes are fixed more steadfastly than ever on the altar, their hands are clasped tighter together, their faces turn a shade paler, their hearts beat quicker as the young man walks slowly along the row. At last he stops; his choice is made. He stretches out his hand with a little smile. The girl rises, casts a long look, half-thanks, half-entreaty, at the picture of the Madonna, puts her hand into that of the stranger, and together they disappear behind the sacristy. The fate being thus broken, other suitors come forward.

BABY'S FEATHERS.

See the feathers, mamma dear,
Flailing down in the yard
Covering up the pansy bed
With a blanket white.

See them on the rosy-bush,
Beauriful little things!
I think they must have dropped
From the angels' wings.

Getting to Sleep.

Is there anything more distressing than sleeplessness? When you want to go to sleep, and feel that you ought to go to sleep, and that you must go to sleep anyway, and yet cannot?

You toss about from one side to the other, change your pillow, sit up and straighten them down—putting your arms under the quilts, and outside them, lying first on your stomach and then on your left, changing occasionally to your back.

The more you turn and twist, and the harder you try to go to sleep, the wider awake you become.

You fancy there is some trouble about the pillow, and you turn it over, and beat it up, and tuck the case smoothly under, and you never can get down carefully but sleep does not come.

Then you think perhaps the bed is too hard, and you get up and make it soft, smooth out imaginary wrinkles, and shake the sheets, and go to bed again, finding out that you can sleep now.

But you were never more mistaken in your life.

After you have had your eyes tightly shut for ten minutes, and have been growing more and more wakeful each moment, you betake yourself to the numerous "recipes" you have read in the papers for promoting the performance of going to sleep.

You begin and count six hundred. No success. Then you repeat the multiplication table as far as you know, but the result is the same. Then you go through with the ten commandments, and the burial service from the Book of Common Prayer and "thirty days hath September" —and still you are just as far from the wished-for result.

Then you begin to repeat what poetry you can remember, beginning with Longfellow's "Psalm of Life," and ending with Mother Goose's

"Hickory Dickory Dock,
The mouse ran up the clock."

Then you roll your eyes in their sockets, and try to imagine that you see smoke issuing from your nostrils, according to the prescribed formula, and you do a hundred other things equally absurd; but it is all labor lost.

You toss out the weary night, and fall asleep just as the breakfast-bell rings and you are expected to make your appearance, fresh as the lark, to entertain company and make things generally pleasant.

The human will is a mighty power, and can build cities and move mountains; but when it comes to apply itself to the getting of a nervous person to sleep it is powerless.

Jackson Was Right.

Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, was over at the White House one day, with some important papers for President Jackson to sign, among them being a court-martial findings.

"Other, what is this?" inquired Jackson, as he was about to write his name on the document.

"It is a court-martial," answered Cass.

"What have I to do with it?" asked the President.

"It commissions an officer from the service, and the President must sign such orders."

"Jackson toyed with the paper, and said, musingly:

"Dismisses him from the army, eh? Why?"

"Drunkenness; getting drunk and falling down on parade, or something of that kind," answered the Secretary.

"Who ordered the court?" asked Jackson.

"General Scott," answered Cass.

"Who is it?" inquired the President, with more interest.

"Inspector-General Kraun," replied Cass.

"What!" shouted Jackson; "my old friend Kraun! Cass, just read what that paper says."

The Secretary read the usual form of the court-martial sentence in such cases.

The President threw the paper and wrote across the bottom, where he was about to sign his name:

"The within findings are disapproved, and Colonel Kraun is restored to his duty and rank."

He pushed the paper back to Secretary Cass, and said, with his usual vehemence:

"By the Eternal! Cass, when you and Scott serve your country as well as that man has, you can get drunk on duty every day."

THE WORM THAT TURNS.

"They say the worm will turn, mamma,
And if the saying's true,
Can anybody tell, mamma,
What it will turn into?"

"Oh, yes, my child, your mamma can
The knowledge soon supply;
For if it be a grub, 'twill turn
Into a butterfly."

A LAWYER'S TESTIMONY.

Attorney Isaac H. Sugg to the Witness Box for Pe-ru-na.

The eminent lawyer, Sugg, of Greenville, North Carolina, well known in the Supreme Courts of the State and United States, when asked what he knew of Pe-ru-na, stated: If I take pleasure in attesting the efficiency of Pe-ru-na. I have used it in my family and am satisfied it is meritorious, and beyond all question the best medicine for catarrhal troubles I have ever known. I keep it in my house, and use it when I think necessary.

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For free book on cancer address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio.

He Was All Right.

Envious neighbors called him mean and stingy; but he was neither. He was industrious, provident and frugal. He wasted nothing that he could save. He had been a hard-working man all his life. He began with no capital, but his strong arms and a determination to make a living and lay up enough for the coming "rainy day." He began in the woods. He cleared up his own farm. During those years of struggle and privation strict economy was necessary; but even then he was not stingy. He was always a liberal provider for his family. He was a large contributor to charitable, benevolent objects. His wife and children always were decently and comfortably clad. His home was supplied with books and periodicals. His children were fairly educated. His farm was a model of thrift and careful attention. He was strictly honest. His word was as good as his bond. His note was as good as the gold wherever he was known. If we had a nation of such men there would be no assignments, no bucket-en banks, no sheriff's sales, no business failures. They may be starved and ridiculed miserly, but it is such men that maintain the credit and business of the country.

Presumptuous Mr. Glossfront.

She had requested for the first time with her radiant cheek against his bosom, but she nestled only for a moment. Suddenly she tore herself away, hid her arms and sprang to her feet. The love-light was gone from her eyes. Scorn—cold scorn—lit them now, as she gazed, panting, upon her amazed lover.

"Sir, you have grossly misled. "Do you not know the business of my father?"

"Truly, Amarinthe mine! He owns a laundry."

"And you conspire against his calling yet dare to woo his daughter?"

"Amarinthe!"

"Cease, base one, and go. Your shirt-bosom is celluloid!"

And as Abram Glossfront, with bowed head, passed out into the night, he groaned:

"Fool that I was! Celluloid, and I laundry it with a sponge!"

"A husband very seldom calls his wife 'Mister' after she begins to scratch.

Never strike a man when he is down. He ever so much easier to kick him.

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THE DIFFERENCE.

When the winds of winter beat
Little Bunny's harbor tree,
For a blanket round his feet
Close his bushy tail tucks he.
Never mind how loud the storm,
Sound he sleeps and snug and warm.

When the little honey-bees
See the snow come powdering down
On their roof beneath the trees

In the pleasant Beehive Town,
Then away to bed they creep,
All the winter long they sleep.

But when little busy Ned
Hears the noisy north wind blow,
Out he rushes with his sled,
For he loves the whirling snow.
Bess and bunnies, sleepy things!
Lose the fun that winter brings.

THE VANDERVEER MEDAL.

It Was Very Hard to Win and Just as Hard to Keep.

By EMMA A. OPPER.

Of the Thurston Academy girls, Maggy Grant, with her uncommon brightness and "cute" ways, and Olive Atwater, with her pretty face and unmistakable evidences of belonging to one of the richest families in town, were two of the best liked. Everything they did was interesting, somehow, and the affair of the Vanderveer medal was particularly so.

Of course everybody knew that Maggy Grant could take the medal if she wanted it, and everybody was right. She let twenty-eight disappointed girls examine it, in the cloakroom after school, listened smilingly to their bursts of admiration, and bore it home with triumph.

"It's the Vanderveer medal," she announced, in the midst of the family. "Mrs. Vanderveer visited the school last month—the very rich lady, you know, who goes to Europe so much—and she noticed particularly the girls of the two higher grades; I suppose we're unusually handsome or something. Anyhow, she had this lovely gold medal made, and sent to Miss Suffel to be competed for by us girls in a way Miss Suffel should decide upon. And Miss Suffel, dear thing! decided to give it every month, to wear till the next month, to the girl who is first in mathematics.

Maggy laughed gleefully. Her easy prowess in mathematics was well known.

"I'm—m," said her father. "If it had been Latin, now, or French, eyan—um?"

"If it had been," said Maggy, with a little shrug for her elder sister Ada's benefit, "Olive Atwater would stand a chance, but. But algebra!—why, the other day she let x equal a known quantity."

"You will be taken for some royal personage when you wear this thing," said her bantering father. "You'll have people bowing and salaaming to you."

"You seem to dislike Olive Atwater," Ada said to her lively sister, later.

Maggy turned upon her a wide gaze.

"Why, of course. Didn't you know it? We hardly speak to each other."

"Maggy?"

"Well, we don't," said Maggy, carelessly. "I know she has always looked down on me, rather, because she's richer, and—oh, that isn't all. I'd like to know if she asked me to her party? If she did, I've forgotten it."

"You had given yours, you know, without asking her."

"Mine was just a candy-pull, and she had almost every girl I know. No, indeed, Sis; I don't like Olive Atwater!" Maggy clinched to the piano and plunged into something, loudly; but Ada made herself heard above the racket. "It's all ridiculous schoolgirl moonshine," she said, "and you ought to be shaken."

The Vanderveer medal went to Maggy Grant the next month, and yet again the third time. The clever recipient accepted the honor with gay nonchalance, and wore the pretty ornament everywhere and in an ingenious variety of ways—as a brooch, as a clasp at her slender waist, on a ribbon round her neck, and even in her dark hair. Everywhere it was admired and talked about. The twenty-eight unsuccessful girls

MAGGIE ROSE AND FACED OLIVE.

were good-natured about it, though they declared openly that they were "digging" for that medal, and that they would just simply "give their heads" for it. All but Olive Atwater; she was apparently indifferent. But one afternoon when Maggy was putting on her "things" in the cloakroom, she heard Olive talking to Martha Todd, in the next alcove, with an earnestness quite intense.

"Everybody knows about it, you see," she said; "it's getting celebrated. And then, Mrs. Vanderveer gave it, and she's such an old friend of ours, and she'll be certain to ask if I have taken it, and she'll think I'm a blockhead, so Mamma says; and altogether

The Vanderveer Medal has immediately a new value for her.

they are all awfully anxious for me to take it, just once anyhow; and they don't see why I can't. And Papa has promised me a new silver-mounted saddle, if I do. And I'd just give anything if I could!" said Olive, desperately. Maggy pinned on her hat with a cool little smile. She would not have admitted it to herself, but the Vanderveer medal had immediately a new value for her.

At dinner that night her mother said suddenly, "Where's the medal?"

"Isn't it there?" Maggy cried, feeling at her throat. It was not there, nor anywhere in sight; it was gone. Maggy's careless ways were well known, so nobody was astonished.

"But I know just where I lost it," she insisted. "The hook of at the neck of my jacket, and I was going to pin it together with the medal, and I laid it down on a chair in the cloakroom while I put my jacket on, and then forgot it. I'll find it tomorrow."

But she did not find it. It was not where she had left it, and nobody had seen it—neither the janitor, who was invincibly honest, nor any of the girls. It was a mystery; but Maggy, impetuous ever, and excited over the loss, told herself indignantly that she knew what had become of it. Olive Atwater had wanted it exceedingly, because it means to her a silver-mounted saddle; and if she had contrived, on the night where Maggy had left it, and had taken it home and worn it, and had worn it, and had won it, she would get the saddle. In the first heat of indignation which the notion caused her, and before reason had time to assert itself, Maggy spoke her suspicion to Martha Todd, and Martha whispered it to somebody else, and it came to Olive Atwater's ears; and the next day she passed Maggy with her head high and her fair face aflame, and without looking at her. Therefter their enmity was serious and open, and they did not "speak," and the other girls had the consider whether they would be friends of Maggy Grant or of Olive Atwater, because they could not well be friends of both.

As to the lost medal, of course Maggy had to replace it. She went to the jeweler who had made it, and found that its cost had been $12; and she took the information home. Her father, after a few tantalizing comments, presented her with a $10 bill. "I guess $2 worth of experience will last you till the next time," he said.

Her brother Frank ironically contributed 10 cents. "You don't intend to go on taking the thing, do you?" he said. "You've demonstrated to an awe-stricken populace that you know more about figures than liar inward twinges, and of glances and whisperings among the girls. Indeed, she went round for the next few days with a consciousness of being "rather mean," as she said to herself.

The people at home, too, had something to say. Maggy walked in with her chin up, and with a mingling of sheepishness and defiance.

"That medal again?" said Frank, whistling.

"I haven't had it for two months," said Maggy. But her chin came down a little when Ada looked at her.

"Which of the girls would have taken it this time if you had not?" that astute sister inquired. "Not Olive Atwater?"

"When you lose it this time," said her father, "I fear you'll have to empty your purse and buy another yourself. Of course, it's a mere matter of taste; if people prefer to spend their money for gold medals rather than other things, it's perfectly allowable. I presume the jeweler will be glad to have an order for a medal every other month or so."

Maggy had been hoarding her money. She was getting very hearty at her modest weekly allowance for a particular purpose. The old woman who did their heavier cleaning had a little house, and she was sick all day in a rocker in his poor home; and Maggy had been to see him. If he could get a "shaded cheer," said his mother, she or his sister could "whale" him out every day, and it was for a wheeled chair for poor Teddy Ryan that Maggy was saving her money. She had sent for circulars, and she could see the chair for $20, and found real happiness in the prospect of bringing comfort to the patient little cripple, who had so little of pleasure while she had so much.

Somehow that plan for Teddy Ryan was the pleasantest thing Maggy had to think about for some time after she had taken the Vanderveer medal for the fourth time. Everything went wrong. She had no fun and joy the medal in the least. She had a perfect right to it; but it was disagreeable to have Olive's girlfriends saying to her, every clique that it was "awfully mean" of her to take it just because Olive Atwater would have taken it if she hadn't, and when she knew how hard Olive had worked for it. Maggy was sure she had never been considered mean before, and it troubled her very deeply. And then, to cap the climax, she went one Saturday afternoon to see Kate Ridley, went to take a singing-lesson, went to see what they had at the new art store—and in the rush and flurry did actually lose the medal again. When she got home it

She stood and blankly stared at herself in her glass; then she sped down to the parlor, where she had pulled off her jacket, and searched frantically. It was not there.

It was too dreadful to believe. Maggy felt her face growing hot, slowly. How could she tell anybody? She would be ashamed to. What would everybody think —Miss Suffel and all the girls? And that was not the worst of it either—what would her father say, and Frank? Oh, dear! She couldn't face them. And even that was not the worst of it. She would have to buy another medal herself this time; and when would Teddy Ryan get his chair? The warm days were coming on, just the days when he would enjoy that chair. Now he would have to go on fastening his pale little nose against the window, and all because she had lost the Vanderveer medal again. The Vanderveer medal! She was sick of the sound of the name. It hadn't done her much good, anyhow, and certainly in one or two respects it had done considerable harm. She wished she had never seen it nor heard of it. Tears were sticking to her eyes, and she flung herself into a corner of the sofa and wept hotly.

She lay with her head almost buried in a cushion; and so she did not hear the sound of smooth-rolling wheels, nor Amelia answering the bell. She did not even know there was a caller till Amelia ushered Olive Atwater into the room.

Maggy rose and faced Olive Atwater. She was too much amazed to speak. The tearstained face must have expressed something besides amazement, for Olive blushed painfully and stammered over her speech, trying at the same time to return Maggy's cool gaze in kind.

"I was at Miss Finley's just now, taking my lesson," she said, "and I saw your medal under the piano. I know you'd be worried about it, and I thought I go this way home and bring it to you." She put the shining thing in Maggy's hand, and turned away.

"Olive," Maggy faltered—"Olive, it was very sweet of you to that for me"; and her voice shook threateningly. "I've been crying half an hour, because I was so ashamed to lose it again, and I hated to tell anybody, and—and—it would have served me right if it had been lost for good, because I ought not to have taken it, Olive. No, no no!—I oughtn't. I don't know how I could have been so hateful." And then Maggy, overcome by a strange mixture of emotions, cried again.

Olive sat down beside her. "Unb—button your coat," said Maggy, tearfully.

"I've been hateful, too," said Olive, "You know, ever since you didn't ask me to your candy-pull—and—"

"I wasn't perfectly sure you'd want to come," said Maggy. "Nothing but candy-pull, and your parties are so much nicer, and—I thought you always felt a little above—"

How foolish it sounded, when she came to say it!

"Oh Maggy Grant, nobody who knows me really could ever think that!" Olive cried. "Why, I've always liked you and—admired you."

"There isn't anything to admire," said Maggy, with conviction. "I've been mean."

"And I have," said Olive. "I could have asked you to my party just the same, and I ought to have."

"But oh, Olive, the worst thing," Maggy stammered, quite miserably, "was my thinking for a minute that you knew anything about—about—"

"That first medal. Of course I never saw it, except when you wore it."

"Of course not," said Maggy. And then they looked at each other. "It's all been perfect nonsense right from the beginning," said Maggy; "hasn't it?"

"I suppose such things always are," said Olive, flushed with pleasure at the way things were coming out.

The unpleasantness among the girls in the academy melted away thereafter with remarkable rapidity. It was for a measure to have Olive Atwater and Maggy Grant good friends; they formed a confederacy for fun and for enterprise which no other two could have equaled.

The janitor found the first Vanderveer medal in a large crack in the floor of the cloakroom; and Miss Stuffel consulted with the girls, and offered it as a monthly prize for the best work in the academy. Maggy Grant gave up the mathematical medal for good and all, and worked hard for the other, and made astonishing improvement in her French. On the whole, Miss Suffel declared the Vanderveer medals to be about the best things ever introduced into the school.

Teddy Ryan got his chair. And when Maggy told Olive Atwater about it she was so pleased and interested that she made some odd little, tasseled cushions for it, and joined with Maggy in making Teddy Ryan a target, as it were, for a good share of their spending money.—St. Nicholas.

Getting His Money's Worth.

Jinks—Yes, I always take my boy along when I go to the minstrels. That's the only way I can get my money's worth.

Binks—How so?

Jinks—The music is new to me, and the jokes are new to him.

Not Hie.

Little boy—Perkins, our new coachman, says England is his mother country. Is it yours, too?

Gardener—No, be jabers, it's moy shtepmother countthry.

HURRY-UP AND BY-AND-BY.

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

Hurry-up met By-and-by
Twining flowers one day;
Hurry-up was very grave,
By-and-by was gay.
"Wait a little, friend," he said,
"Come and share my play."

But the other did not pause,
"I must work," said he;
"Work until my task is done,
And my mind is free."
"Work will wait," quoth By-and-by,
"Sit down her with me.

"I shall labor pretty soon
When this wreath is laced.
There is time enough for toil,
Why this foolish haste?"
Hurry-up said, walking on,
"Time's too dear to waste."

By-and-by saw Hurry-up
Once again they say:
Saw him sitting at his ease
In the bright noon-day;
Blossoms grew about his feet,
And his lip was gay.

By-and-by, with brooding eyes,
Looked out to the west,
Hurrying down the dusty road
Anxious and depressed,
While beneath his nervous feet
Faded flowers he pressed.

"Queer," he grumbled, as he went
Scowling on his way,
How luck favors Hurry-up!
Fate is queer, I say."
And he does not understand
"Such is pluck" always.
—Youth's Companion.

FAIRY TALES OF JAPAN.

The Stories Told to the Little Ones of the Famous Island.

By FRANK FOLLETT.

Matsudaira was a Daimio boy, which means that his father was a Japanese nobleman, and that Matsudaira always dressed in silk and wore a little gold sword by his side.

His mother said he was the cleverest and weetest and prettiest little boy in all Japan, and as she knew him better than any one did, and, indeed, better than she knew any one else, it is probable that she was competent to speak on the subject.

Another person who loved Matsudaira very much was his old nurse, Tokima, who knew so many beautiful fairy tales that she never got to the end of her list. Cold winter evenings they would sit around the brazier where Tokima's tea kettle was boiling, and listen to her stories.

On the particular evening of which I am going to tell you, Matsudaira had had his bath—for every one takes an evening bath in Japan—and Tokima had lit the taper and set it inside the paper lantern which had pictures of the Rain Dragon and the Thunder Drummer all over it.

Before the little boy would eat his supper he begged Tokima to call Obun, whose name means in English, "Tea Tray," and little Sataro, and after they had come the whole party settled down comfortably around the brazier.

Matsudaira took his bowl of rice and milk in his lap, and Tokima began their favorite story of the "Tongue-Cut Sparrow."

"It is said that once upon a time a cross old woman laid some starch in a bath, intending to put it in her clothes when she had finished washing them, but a sparrow, which two of her neighbors kept as a pet, flew down and ate it all up. Seeing this the cross old woman seized the sparrow, and saying, 'You hateful thing!' cut its tongue and let it go.

"When the neighbor woman heard that her pet sparrow had got its tongue cut for its offense, she was greatly grieved, and set out with her husband over mountains and plains to find where it had gone, crying all the way, 'Where does the tongue-cut sparrow stay? Where does the tongue-cut sparrow stay?'

"At last they found its home.

"When the sparrow saw that its old master and mistress had come to see it, it rejoiced and brought them into the house and thanked them for their kindness in old times, and spread a table for them and loaded it with sake and fish till there was

HE BECAME BENT AND WITHERED.

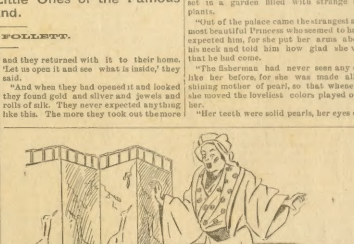
no more room, and made its wife and children and grandchildren all serve the table.

"At last, throwing away its drinking cup, it danced a jig called the 'Sparrow Dance.' Thus they passed the day.

"When it began to grow dark, and they began to talk of going home, the sparrow brought out two wicker baskets and said: 'Will you take the heavy one, or shall I give you the light one?' The old people replied: 'We are old, so give us the light one. It will be easier to carry.'

"The sparrow gave them the light baskets, and they returned with it to their home. 'Let us open it and see what is inside,' they said.

"And when they had opened it and looked they found gold and silver and jewels and rolls of silk. They never expected anything like this. The more they took out the more



A whole troop of demons bounced out.

they found inside. The supply was inexhaustible, so that they at once became rich and prosperous.

"When the cross old woman who had cut the sparrow's tongue saw this she was filled with envy and went and asked her neighbor where the sparrow lived, and all about the way. 'I will go, too,' she said, and at once set out on her search.

"Again the sparrow brought out two wicker baskets and asked as before: 'Will you take the heavy one, or shall I give you the lighter one?'

"Thinking that the treasure would be great in proportion to the weight of the basket, the old woman replied: 'Let me have the heavy one.'

"Receiving this she started home with it on her back, the sparrow laughing at her as she went. It was as heavy as a stone and hard to carry, but at last she got back with it to her house.

"Then when she took off the cover and looked in a whole troop of demons bounced out and frightened her so much that she fell down in a fit and died."

Sataro's eyes had been growing very heavy during the story of the tongue-cut sparrow, and he didn't laugh when the other children did. He looked at them very solemnly, and suddenly his little shaven head gave a great nod and he nearly fell into the fire.

Tokima took him in her arms, and before she had even gotten so far as "once upon a time," he was fast asleep. So she went on in a low tone to tell them the story of "The Enchanted Fisherman."

"Many, many years ago their lived on the shores of the sea a man and his wife, who had but one son. This boy was not born to them until they were advanced in years, and so by the time he was grown they were quite old and unable to work.

"The boy was a good boy, however, and glad to be of their support. He learned from his father to be a fisherman, and with the proceeds of his fishing he kept his parents in comfort. He was their pride and happiness, and by his goodness and love made their old age very pleasant.

"One day he put out to sea in his boat as usual, and was so busily engaged that he did not perceive the rising storm until it was upon him.

"The wind blew, and the waves tossed his boat as if it had been an eggshell, and now as he might be only drifted farther and farther from land.

"Finally the land sank out of sight altogether, and amid the howling winds and furious waves he gave himself up for lost. The boat filled with water and he was sinking in the sea, when suddenly he espied a huge tortoise swimming past.

"Seizing hold of it he climbed upon its back, and so escaped drowning. Then all at once the sea grew calm, the wind seized to blow and the clouds floated softly and swiftly away.

"The fisherman clung to the tortoise's back while it swam steadily out to sea, seemingly bent upon reaching some point far to the westward.

"The sun sloped down the sky to the edge of the ocean, but before they could reach it it had sunk below the waves. Then the stars came out and the moon rose, leaving a broad silver path across the sea.

"Along this the tortoise swam until he reached the very end, when he suddenly sank down and down to the very bottom of the ocean.

"The fisherman found himself in front of a palace made entirely of pink coral and set in a garden filled with strange sea plants.

"Out of the palace came the strangest and most beautiful Princess who seemed to have expected him, for she put her arms about his neck and told him how glad she was that he had come.

"The fisherman had never seen any one like her before, for she was made all of shining mother of pearl, so that whenever she moved the loveliest colors played over her.

"Her teeth were solid pearls, her eyes em-

eralds and the long waving hair that fell to her feet was of glossy green seaweed.

"For seven days the young man lived in the pink coral palace with the exquisite Princess, who feasted and caressed him. At the end of the week he said he must return to his home.

"The Princess wept and implored him to remain, but he insisted upon returning to his parents, who would suffer were he not there to care for them. So the Princess kissed him good-bye through her tears, and giving him a little silver box, told him never to open it until the hour of his greatest need.

"Then he mounted the back of the tortoise and returned to his own country.

"But when he looked about him the shore seemed strangely familiar and yet unfamiliar, and he could find no trace of his father's cottage. After searching for it a long while in vain he inquired of a passer-by news of his parents.

"The man thought a few moments, and then said: 'My great grandfather told me that old man had told him that a great while before their time there lived on this shore two old people whose son was drowned at sea. But that was hundreds of years ago, and the old people have been so long dead that no one even knows where they were buried.'

"Then the fisherman knew that what had seemed to him but seven days in the ocean was in reality hundreds of years. He wandered away along the shore very sad and lonely.

"His parents were dead, his cottage gone and not a single being who knew him was left alive. Suddenly his hand struck against the little box he had thrust into his girdle. He never could need it more than he did now, he thought, and so he lifted off the cover.

"At first it seemed empty, but as he stood looking in it a little blue smoke arose and curled around his head. Then his hair began to grow gray and face to wrinkle.

"The smoke curled up thicker and thicker, and every moment he grew older and older. He became bent and withered and his hair as white as snow, and at last he sank down on the sand, brown and shriveled, and fell into a little heap of dust that the wind came and whirled about and finally blew away into the sea."

For a long time Matsudaira had been seeing the fire more and more faintly. Tokima's voice had sounded farther and farther away, and before the story was finished he closed his eyes and his head sank on her shoulder.

The last thing he remembered was being tucked into his warm bed by Tokima and hearing the cold wind blow around the corners of the house.

Legal Holidays.

Feb. 12, the birthday of President Lincoln, has been made a legal holiday in Illinois.

June 3, the birthday of Jefferson Davis, has been made a legal holiday in the state of Florida.

Many towns in Europe have local holidays commemorative of some important events in their history.

Every Saturday afternoon is a legal holiday in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

New Year's Day is a legal holiday in all the states but Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Fast days, whenever appointed by the President of the United States, are legal holidays in all the states.

The Jewish feasts, those of Tabernacles, of Pentecost, of Trumpets and of Passover, were instituted by Moses, B. C. 1491.

The most important annual holiday at Babylon was in honor of Bel or Belus. It was celebrated with human sacrifices.

"The Feast of Fools" was a name given to the month in the Christian Holiday which took the place of the Saturnalia.

Dec. 25, Christmas Day, is a legal holiday in all the states, and in South Carolina the two following days are also holidays.

The British and German Druids had a festival that nearly corresponded, in the time of its observance, to our Christmas season.

The burning of the yule log in England is a relic of the Scandinavian worship of the god Thor. His feast was called Yule, or Yule tide.

An Object Lesson.

Ridicule is a potent weapon; no one likes to be placed in an absurd position. A naval officer once found he could not teach the youngest men in the naval academy not to squirm and start and jump and plug their ears with their fingers when a heavy cannon was fired. It was of no use to argue with them, pleadings were in vain, and reproofs were useless. He was highly ridiculous to have a lot of young men, whose profession it is to make war when war is needed, act like school girls when the sun artillery was in noisy operation. The officer was at his wits' ends, but finally hit upon a plan. He had a camera "trained" upon his gallant cadets without their knowing it, and then he ordered broadside after broadside to be fired. The noise was thunderous, and the actions of the cadets were, as usual, most undignified and comical. A few days later some excellent photographs of the "young-men-afraid-of-a-noise" were hung in prominent positions, to be a perpetual reproach to those who plugged their ears. The next time the cannon roared the cadets stood like statues carved from stone, petrified with their fear of the "deadly camera" and its brutal frankness.

The Danger of Hypnotism.

It is told of Van Amburgh, the great lion tamer, that he once entered a cage in a barroom, he was asked how he gained his wonderful power over animals. He replied:

"It is by showing them that I'm not in the least afraid of them, and by keeping my eye on theirs. I'll give you an example of the power of my eye." Pointing to a foolish fellow who was sitting near by, he said: "Here, you fellow! Here is a regular clown. I'll make him come across the room to me, and I won't say a word to him." Sitting down, he fixed his keen, steady eye on the man. Presently the fellow straightened himself up, rose from his seat, and came slowly toward the lion tamer. When he was close enough, he drew back his arm and struck Van Amburgh a tremendous blow under the chin, knocking him clean over the chair, with the remark: "You'll stare at me like that again, won't you?"

A Distinction.

Mr. Skidmore—Say, John, Mr. Jones tells me you thrashed his son shamefully today. Is that true?

John—Yes, sir.

Then what did Jones mean by telling me that?

He just made a mistake. I didn't thrash Jim Jones shamefully. I walloped him beautifully.

A Sad Retribution.

A little southern girl, who is a remarkably well-behaved child, one day confided to her aunt that she thought the Jones children were "awful."

"You can't imagine how bad they are, auntie. They tell stories, and disobey their mothers, and everything; and if they are so bad when they are little, I just expect they'll every one grow up to be Yankees."

Took It First.

"Grandma, may I take that piece of chocolate you left on the table? I will be so good!"

"Yes, you may take it." (The little girl does not move). "Why don't you go and get it?"

"Oh, grandma, dear, I ate it first!"

BABY.

BY HATTIE FARNS.

Two bright eyes
Looking into mine,
Two tiny arms round
My neck to twine;
That's baby.

One rosebud mouth
For mother's lips to kiss,
One pug nose
Oh a cunning little miss;
That's baby.

Curly brown ringlets
All over her head,
Denting the pillow
Of her own rumble-bed;
That's baby.

Two little feet
Running up to me,
Bringing her treasures
For mother dear to see;
That's baby.

Two little hands
Folded in prayer,
Kneeling by mother
Free from every care;
That's baby.

WHY MUFFET STAYED.

BY MARIGOLD.

There was great excitement at Twin Willow Farm, familiarly known as the "Paradise of Cats." A tramp had appeared on the premises—a feline tramp, lean and wild-eyed from days and weeks of starvation and ill-treatment. What a contrast the pitiful thing was to the seven sleek, full-grown cats who sat in a dignified row on the veranda, surveying the stranger in marked disapproval.

Close up to the kitchen door the six kittens huddled together, in a heap of mixed fur; and the faces of four of the Johnny-jump-ups were pressed against the window pane eagerly watching the scene.

"It is so cold," said Bertha, pityingly, "and the kitty is so thin and her fur is so ragged. Open the door, mamma, please, and let her come in by the fire."

"What do you think?" asked mamma, turning to Aunt Della, who, with Baby Dean, was spending the day at the farm. "If we let her in, she will want to stay, of course; the poor little creature!"

"I should think you would be delighted," answered Baby Dean's mamma. "You know you have only thirteen cats—a most unlucky number. You seem fated to have thirteen most of the time. Now this stray one will make the number even."

"Yes," said the Johnny-jump-ups' mamma, "I have always considered it good luck to have a cat come to you; but last year we took in a half-starved, broken-legged pussy, and after we had done everything in the world for her, and made a respectable looking cat of her, she took possession of the whole place, and drove many of our own cats away. She was the most ungrateful, cantankerous, ill-tempered specimen of cathood I ever saw. This one may turn out the same."

The Johnny-jump-ups became very sober at this. Their sympathies were enlisted in favor of the forlorn wanderer, and they looked imploringly at Aunt Elsie; but she was holding Tiddlekins, the 10-months-old baby, and making up nonsensical jingles for his benefit. All she said was this:

"Once was a boy named Tiddlekins,
And he was very sweet,
But when he went to dinner,
He got no fat on the meat."

At which Tiddlekins laughed, as if it were all an excellent joke.

"Well," said mamma, finally, "the children and the cats will have to decide this matter. Open the door, Judy, and let them in. Aunt Elsie can stop playing with the baby long enough to translate what they all say, since she has made a study of the language."

So Judy opened the door, and the cats came solemnly in—all except "the tramp," Judy had to carry her. And, if you will believe it, Nightingale, "the pretty yellow and gray cat, was highly enraged at the proceedings. She put a protecting paw around her wee, roly-poly kitten.

"If this common-place cat remains on Twin Willow Farm," she said impressively, "I shall leave. It will be my painful duty to take my kitten and go to Omaha to my eldest daughter, Spottsylvania, who resides in a palatial mansion on one of the stylish avenues."

Gilt Edge winked her topaz eye at Jim Jams, one of her cousins; then she wiggled from her mother's paws, and whirled around and around in a futile attempt to catch her own stumpy yellow tail. She was as white as a snowball, except for her tail, and that was the reason she was christened Gilt Edge.

Duchess agreed with Nightingale and so did Don Moustachio Whiskerando.

"We are the descendants of a long line of blue-blooded ancestors," he observed loftily. "We cannot be too exclusive."

He meant that his great, great, great-grandmother was a Maltese. He had an idea that all the Twin Willow cats were superior to the rest of catdom in this respect.

"In our ancestral halls up on Burdette street," he was wont to tell the frolicsome kittens when in a reminiscent frame of mind, "lonely rats and sad-eyed mice wearily watch and wait for our return."

His ancestral halls comprised a couple of ancient dry goods boxes, filled with broken bottles and tin cans. But the kittens did not want to hear that, and they used to listen eagerly to all these tales of former grandeur. Poor old Don! he was very like many other people in this world of ours.

He regarded the strange cat with unveiled contempt.

"Why," he said sneeringly, "his name is Muffet! Only imagine associating with the owner of such a common, vulgar name!"

Mesmerissima and Tabby Jacket nearly fainted at the bare suggestion; Burkehart withdrew from the circle in disgust; but Friskarina's golden eyes grew bright with indignation as she said hastily:

"I am grieved to belong to such an uncharitable family. Have not many of our own kindred left the farm and become wanderers like Muffet? And who knows if they have met with kindness in their travels, or been treated as you have treated this stranger within our gates, Don? For my part I believe in a Common Brotherhood of Cats, without respect to race, caste, pedigree or color."

Aunt Elsie was so astonished at this speech that she set little Tiddlekins down on the floor, and called Miss Friskarina, gave her a squeeze of approval.

The cats were mute with utter amazement; and nobody knew what might have happened next if Gilt Edge had not created a diversion by stumbling headfirst into a pail of fresh buttermilk. Before her mother could stir a paw toward the rescue of her baby, Muffet, the desolate tramp pussy, made one bound to the scene of disaster, and seizing Gilt Edge by her yellow tail, landed her in safety on the kitchen floor.

"Miaow-ow-ow!" wailed Gilt Edge, dolefully, as the buttermilk dripped from her little shivering body in rivulets.

Tiddlekin's mamma picked up the unfortunate catkin, and soon rubbed her dry and very wild in a piece of sandpaper, almost.

The Twin Willow cats stared at Muffet, who said never a word, but returned the stare with interest. Then the 10-months-old a tear from her left eye with one dainty paw, and extended the other to Muffet.

"You have preserved my precious baby from a milky grave," she said, melodramatically. "My heart and home are yours from this day."

Muffet sprang for the other cats to crowd around poor Judy, and nearly dislocate her paw with their friendly shakings.

"I was a noble deed," exclaimed Don Moustachio Whiskerando, "and convinces me that you must be a noble cat, like myself. I welcome you with open paws to Twin Willow Farm."

And all the thirteen cats, large and small, purred so loudly and rapturously that any one might have heard them a block away.

"The cats have decided the matter," said mamma, smiling. "Now what do the children say?"

All the Johnny-jump-ups cried out in chorus:

"Hurrah for Muffet! Muffet is our cat now!"

So Muffet stayed, and that night, after she had been well fed, she sat on the soft hearth rug in the parlor, and purred a beautiful song to Gilt Edge, Tiddlekins and Baby Dean. The three babies understood it every word, but Aunt Elsie had to translate it for the Johnny-jump-ups. This is the way it ran:

"I had babies, one, two, three,
Long ago—long ago!
In a barn they lived with me,
Black and gray, and white as snow,
Oh! I see them in my dreams,
Playing where the sunlight gleams,
And I awake—a real ill sentence—
Purring low—purring low.

"But my kittens, one, two, three,
All are dead—all are dead!
They will not come back to me,
For those happy days are fled.
I am but a poor old tramp,
Cuffed and beaten as a scamp,
With no place, when nights are damp,
For my head—for my head.

"Little babies, one, two, three,
Let me stay—let me stay!
I will watch you lovingly
At your happy-hearted play,
Purring, in the firelight clear,
That you are my kittens dear.
If I need not go from here,
Far away—far away!"

Dean and Tiddlekins crowed and kicked with little gurgles of delighted laughter at Muffet's song. As for Gilt Edge, she shook her sunny tail and rolled over and over on the rug, to show her appreciation. So Muffet was adopted by the three babies and made much of. She sings them many, many beautiful songs whenever Baby Dean comes over to the farm for a visit; and poor old Don Moustachio Whiskerando feels quite neglected because no one will listen to him any more when he sings. But his voice is not what it used to be in his youth; he has eaten so many mice that it is far from clear.

This is how it happened that Muffet stayed, making fourteen cats at Twin Willow Farm. And the Johnny-jump-ups all say she is the very best cat on the place.

A small man in a great place and a great man in a small place are equally uncomfortable.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25 cents a bottle.

If everybody lived up to his good resolutions, what would the overworked minister have left to do?

Catarrh Cured Free.

We will send you a free treatment of our catarrh cure. Full directions accompany it so any one can use. Address Dickey Catarrh Cure Co., 59 West Lake Street, Chicago.

For the first few weeks after a young man and a young woman have been married, they think that love is all, but later on they don't despise even such things as fried liver and boiled hash.

THE EARLIEN symptoms of dyspepsia such as distress after eating, heartburn, and occasional headaches, should not be neglected. Take Hood's Sarsaparilla and be cured.

Hood's Pills are the best family cathartic and liver medicine. Harmless, reliable, sure.

Contentment is better than riches, but riches are a pretty hard to forward contentment, unless appearances mislead.

Pretty Good Guess.

The New Orleans Picayune says that a teacher, in explaining to her pupils the difference between civilized and uncivilized races, insisted upon three things as requisite for civilization—food, clothing and shelter.

The next day she brought the subject up again, and asked:

"What are the three things necessary to a civilized man?" she asked.

Several of the children remembered food and clothing, but the third requisite seemed to have escaped their recollection entirely. Finally the smallest boy in the class had been repeatedly two or three times, one little fellow lifted his hand, and said:

"A wife."

Whether the teacher sent him to the head of the class, we are not informed.

No Reason for Uneasiness.

Mrs. Robinson Hill, of Austin, Texas, on entering the dining-room one morn day saw something that shocked her, and to the colored lady, Matilda Snowball, whom she employs, she said:

"Matilda, is that a handkerchief you have put over the butter?"

"Yes, mum, I put it dar to keep de flies off. Don't be skeert, hit's my own bankercher."

A Long Vacation.

"My Danny is a great whistler," said Mrs. Grogan.

"He is that," assented Mrs. Hogan. "But you d'ye think? The mon thot he has been workin' for has give him a two-years' vacation to the Ivy whistlin school. But there is somethin' wrong about it sure, for divil a cint has he put up for the expinses."

Plenty of Attention.

Little boy—That watch you gave me doesn't keep good time.

Father—Perhaps you forget to wind it.

Little boy—Forget to wind it? Why I wind it forty times a day.

An Unexpected Trip.

Two Delaware boys have just returned from an involuntary voyage to Europe. They went out fishing in the Delaware river, and, a fog coming up suddenly, could not find their way to shore. After drifting for two hours a storm came up and the boat was driven before it all night. When morning came and the storm ended the boys were out of sight of land, and with no idea where they were. So they prudently made no effort to go anywhere, and finally were rewarded by the sight of a steamer. As it came closer they hoisted signals of distress, and were picked up by a vessel bound from Philadelphia to Hamburg because she steamship only sighted other vessels at a distance. Of course the boys worked their passage, and did so well that when they returned to Philadelphia on the same steamer the captain paid them a small sum for their services.—Golden Days.

Managing Hens.

Tommy Suburb—I wonder why these new Queen Anne houses have a front and back porches just alike?

Bobby Broadmeadow—I guess that's to fool the chickens, an' make 'em think they're on the front lawn when they're in the back yard.

A Queer Branch.

Uncle George—How do you like arithmetic?

Little Dick—Pretty well, so far; but the teacher says that next week we are to begin learning how to extract roots. Guess he must think we're all going to be dentists."

Satisfied.

First boy—Did yeh have plenty of nice things to eat at that party?

Second boy—Did I? We had such loads of everything that w'en Mrs. Goodsoul gave me some iced cake to take to my mother, I didn't even tek it going home.—Good News.

But Without Reason.

When the petting rain falls and freezes
It the bitter winter time,
It brings no joy to the poet's heart,
Although it is smoothest rime.

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MOST PERFECT MADE.
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40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

AGENTS WANTED PAGE 7.

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We complete to carry and no sales to make. The work can be done in a few solicitors write waiting for trades. No expenses attached to fit-time cash profit. Many writing now are now handling it, all without taking any time from their regular business. Write today for particulars, giving your reference. P. BOWLES, 112 Fifth Av., Kansas City, Mo.

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CLIMBING IN THE SKY.

The sun is climbing in the sky,
We're glad to know;
Days will be longer by and by,
And brighter grow.

The sun is climbing in the sky,
The snow will go;
Days will be warmer by and by,
And flowers will grow.

SHE SCARED THE INDIANS.

Eighty years ago a young doctor and his wife moved into the wilderness of Chautauqua county, New York. He was Dr. Laban Hazeltine, and his wife was a Connecticut girl, Content Fiagler, who had received her education at the famous school of Dr. Lyman Beecher, in Litchfield. The equipage consisted of three heavily loaded wagons—one of them contained 1,200 pounds of medicine!—and three riding horses, and the doctor and his wife were accompanied by William Remus and another man, who is spoken of as Lehigh. The story of their adventures is told in "The Early History of the Town of Elliott."

In the neighborhood of Buffalo the Indians were then very troublesome, and it was the exception when a company of settlers got through without losing a part of their goods. Remus had made up his mind that the redskins should be circumvented this time, if foresight and courage could compass it.

The doctor, meantime, had come down with the fever, and was having daily shakes. One afternoon, when the party was about going into camp, Remus said to Mrs. Hazeltine:

"Content, if we are going to get the doctor through, he mustn't be disturbed tonight. But this is the worst place on the road. If we are not careful, the Indians will steal all they can lay their hands on. Somebody must stand guard, and I think you had better do it."

It was a strange-sounding speech, but Mrs. Hazeltine knew that Remus must have some good reason for his course, and she was too brave a woman—although she never weighed 100 pounds—to complain, or to insist upon explanations.

"Here is a musket," Remus continued. "It isn't loaded, but it has a good bayonet. If you see any Indians around, take it up and carry it, and if they come too near, don't be afraid to prod them with the sharp end."

Mrs. Hazeltine was silent for a minute or two. Then she said:

"I wish you would put in a small charge, Uncle William. The Indians might snatch the gun away from me before I could use the bayonet, but I believe I could shoot one of the scamps, rather than have the wagons pillaged."

"All right," Remus answered, "though I'm afraid you may harm yourself;" and he handed the gun to Lehigh to be loaded.

"Now," he added, "I'm going to make believe I'm asleep, but you may depend upon it I shall be wide-awake. Don't be afraid."

The evening was not far advanced before three or four marauders showed themselves. Mrs. Hazeltine ordered them off, and threatened to fire if they did not go. And they went, while one of them was heard muttering:

"Very little squaw, but much gun. Indian go away. Just like little squaw to shoot some. Might get hurt a good deal."

The next day Remus remarked:

"It worked just as I expected. I knew the varmints would be more afraid of a woman with a gun than of a man. But I took care that Lehigh put powder into the pan, but not into the barrel."

PUSSY'S STOCKING.

BY F. P. CHAPLIN.

Jackanapes, our pussy, does not like music. When Maisie begins to practice on the piano, she jumps up and walks on the keys. Then Maisie, to tease her, bangs on the piano, and Jackanapes mews.

One hot summer day pussy had a fight with Ruff. Ruff lived across the street.

The dog bit one of her legs, and Aunt Ellen tied a rag round it; kittie went off limping.

After dinner Aunt Ellen took her work to the piazza; Maisie was close by her in a hammock.

Aunt Ellen's sewing basket was on a chair, and in her hand one of Joe's red stockings.

She was mending it with red yarn. She had a long, fine darning-needle, and was filling a big hole in the heel. Maisie was trying to mate her other stockings.

And then they heard a very queer noise; it sounded like *t-i-s-s*, with the *s-s*'s very long.

"Look," said Aunt Ellen, "it's Jackanapes, with something in her mouth. She's trying to tell us a story. That big fly between her teeth is called a darning-needle; see the long red body and pretty gauze wings! Puss wants to show it. She has come to sit with us. See how proud she looks!"

"Oh, yes!" said Maisie, her eyes big and bright with fun; "and she has brought her own darning-needle to mend her fur stocking—the naughty Ruff made a hole in this morning.

Just then they heard a choking sound, and Jo! puss had swallowed the big fly, gauze wings, darning-needle and all at one gulp. Then she straightened herself, and stood by the chair on her hind legs.

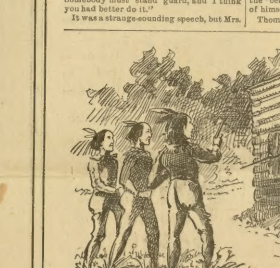
"She's all right now," said Maisie. "Her stocking's mended on the inside. You see she couldn't turn it inside out as you did mine."—Our Little Ones.

Fads of Great Men.

Rubens was so fond of lettuce that he at one time thought of building a greenhouse, to enable him to have this succulent all the year round.

The Duke of Wellington was a good feeder. When in Spain, he often grumbled at the "beastly victuals" furnished for the use of himself and staff.

Thomas Fuller did gallant trencher duty



"Very little squaw; much big gun.

at the tables of his wealthy parishioners. He once said he could eat anything that anybody else could.

Francis Bacon was plain in his eating tastes. Splendid banquets were provided for his guests, while he himself ate of one or two simple dishes.

Raphael lived principally on dried fruits, such as figs and raisins, eating them with bread. He had a theory that a meat diet was not good for a painter.

Kant, the German philosopher, was content with the simplest food in small quantities. A bit of fish or an egg, with a piece of rye bread, made his meal.

Crudius, the compiler of the Bible concordance, delighted in roast beef. "If one can get it cold, sir, with plenty of mustard, it is fit for the gods."

Not on an Alley Heap.

Black, the beloved dog of an American lady and gentleman living at Vaucresson, outside Paris, during the summer, having died, has been buried with the full funeral honors usually accorded to human beings. The canine pet was placed in two caskets—one of oak, the other of zinc—was then conveyed in a hearse with flowers to Vaucresson, and there buried. The funeral was followed by the Americans and their friends, all the mourners being in carriages. A monument which cost $300 was erected to the memory of the lost favorite. The expenses of the caskets, the funeral, the tomb and the memorial amounted to about £100.

The undertaker who carried out the order was rather puzzled at first, and mentioned the matter to a police commissary, who advised him to "get the death certificate of the dog signed by two witnesses. This counsel was followed by the Pompes Funebres official, who was thus able to fulfil his contract without fear of interference on the part of the representatives of the law.

Not Toy-like.

Wheelman (contentiously)—The bicycle is no longer a toy."

Ordinary Citizen (earnestly)—No, siree; it isn't. I've been run into by one myself."

MUST WORK TO KEEP UP.

Few Physicians Try to Cover the Wide Field of Science.

TENDENCY OF THE TIME.

One All-Important Branch of Medicine Strangely Neglected Until Independent Discovery Made Great Strides—Millions Have Been Rescued.

"My physician goes hand in hand with my pastor."

This remark was made by the late J. G. Holland, himself a doctor, and it was true. The work done by the medical profession of America is vast and valuable. So vast indeed that few physicians are able to cover the entire field of practice, but select special departments in which to become proficient. It is perhaps strange that so few doctors have made a specialty of studying or treating the most important organs of the body, which are the kidneys, but such nevertheless is a fact. It is probably because those organs are so wonderfully delicate and uncertain, have so few recognizable symptoms when they are deranged, and, in fact, assume the symptoms that are also the cause of most other diseases. It was left to independent discovery to produce a remedy especially adapted for the kidneys, liver and other organs, and so efficient has this discovery been during the past twenty years that it is constantly prescribed and used by the medical profession and scientists generally, as a sovereign remedy for these troubles. It is useless to say that it is Warner's Safe Cure.

While millions of people have been rescued from sickness and are kept in health by the use of this great remedy, comparatively few realize how great is its purity and power. It soothes all inflammation, fevers, irregularity or similar troubles of these and adjacent organs and leads the sufferer back to health and away from misery. If you, therefore, are a sufferer from any of these troubles, while you may have your regular physician, it is not necessary that you should call upon him, for you have a sure means of restoring your health within easy reach. Every intelligent man or woman who stops to reflect realizes this, and in time of trouble should act upon it.

An accompanist at a concert should always play softly, excepting, of course, in the case where it is merciful to drown out the soloist.

Are You Hard of Hearing or Deaf?
Call or send stamp for full particulars how to restore your hearing by one who was deaf for thirty years. John Garmire, Room 18, Hammond Bldg., Fourth and Vine, Cincinnati, O.

People who think that a minister has an easy time to earn his salary forget the amount of criticism that he has to endure from the members of his congregation.

A New Cure for Asthma.

Medical science at last reports a positive cure for Asthma in the Kola Plant, found on the Congo river, West Africa. So great is their faith in its wonderful curative powers, the Kola Importing Co., 104 Broadway, New York, are sending out large trial cures of the Kola Compound free to all sufferers from Asthma. Send your name and P. O. address on postal card, and they will send you a trial case by mail free.

Sometimes an office-holding politician is fired by ambition, and sometimes he is fired by his supporters after the opposing party has won a victory.

FREE TO BALD HEADS.

We will mail on application, free information how to grow hair upon a bald head, stop falling hair and remove scalp diseases. Address, Arcadian Medical Dispensary, 17 1-2 W. 3rd St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Life to lovely woman would be a horrid burden without flowers, and yet no woman would look grateful if a man should give her a box of them for a birthday present.

A Secret Society for Boys.

The C. M. A. is a secret society for boys under 21 years of age. It has regular signs, grips, pass words and grand lodge. Send stamp for signs of warning, etc. Every member wears a badge of the order. It costs nothing to join, does not interfere with religion or politics. Great fun for the boys. Send your name and the names of two or three other boys you think will join and I will send you full instructions free. Enclose stamp. Address, Harry Wilson,
W. W. BEST, Oak Park, Ill.

Their Own Nutcrackers.

Perhaps you will like to hear of a curious little bird. Go out into the woods in January or February and you may see one and you may see him. He is about six inches long. He wears a black cap, a grayish blue coat and a dirty white vest in front. He runs up and down the tree trunks, searching diligently for little insects who think they have hidden themselves safely under the loose little scales in the bark.

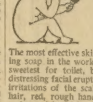
He is a quiet little fellow, having no song. The only noise he makes is a harsh call, which sounds like the word "quank!" This bird is called the nuthatch, because he is fond of nuts, cracking them open and eating the kernels. You may see one of them take an acorn as big as his head, and fixing it in some crevice in the tree, pound away upon it with his little bill until it breaks open and rewards the little worker with a meal.

These birds are also expert gymnasts. They will run up a tree, going swiftly round and round it all the way up. Then quickly turning about they will come down the trunk head first in the same fashion, stopping now and then to snap up some little bug or worm which has ventured out to see what the weather is.

Country boys sometimes speak of these birds as "little devil down heads." But this is longer and not so pretty as the nuthatch.

Five-Minute Athletics.

Five-minute exercise is better than absolutely nothing, and hence I am going to make a suggestion or two regarding it. If you know any one who can tell you the "setting-up" drill practiced in the navy get him to show it to you, and then go through a part or the whole of that each night and morning. If you cannot find out what this is make up a few simple movements for yourself, for example: 1. Standing erect, with knees and heels together, move the body forward and gradually try to touch your fingers to the ground in front without bending either knee. This says Harper's Young People, is a familiar exercise to all of you, but it is a good one, nevertheless. This will do for the back and leg muscles. Bend forward twenty times, and then take up the second exercise. 2. Standing with the legs apart, swing from side to side, bending either knee in turn, and touching the floor first on the right then on the left side, keeping fearful, however, to sway only sideways and not forward and back. Do this twenty times and your sides will ache. 3. Grasp one wrist with the other hand, holding both across your chest. Then forcibly bring the elbows apart as far as from the body, pull with all your strength a steady long pull, as if trying to pull your hands apart. Relax this pull after a second or two. Then change abruptly, and holding arms and hands in the same position, push with all your strength for the same time. Again reverse and pull, and so on forty times—if you can do it so long—but you will notice as you get near the end chest muscles begin to ache. Finally, 4. Lie flat on the floor on your stomach, and keeping your body rigid, push yourself up with the arms as far as possible. Of course nothing must touch the floor but the palms of your hands and toes. Do this twenty times.

FOR BABY'S SKIN
Scalp and Hair
USE

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AGENTS WANTED PAGE 7.

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